

DRAFT
**Otay River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and Special Area Management
Plan (SAMP) - Working Group Meeting Summary**

December 1, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
John Lippitt Public Works Center
1800 Maxwell Road in Chula Vista

Attendees:

Aspen Environmental: Michelle Mattson
CA Native Plant Society: Cindy Burrascano
Citizens: Theresa Acerro
City of Chula Vista: Khosro Aminpour, Josie Gabriel
City of San Diego: Rick Fox
County of San Diego: Tom Oberbauer (DPLU), Joe DeStefano (DPLU), Cheryl Monzon (DPLU), Bethany Yamanaka (DPLU)
EDAW: Meredith Speicher
Otay Valley Regional Park Citizen's Advisory Committee: John Willett, Wayne Dickey
Port of San Diego: Karen Helyer
RBF Consulting: Marc Schulte
San Diego Audubon Society: Jim Peugh
SDGE: Beverly Blessent
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge: Victoria Touchstone
Wetlands Recovery Project: Suzanne Michel
Nancy Hughes (Facilitator)
*Trish Boaz, Project Manager (County DPLU) was out of town.

Handouts:

- Draft Notes from 11-03-04 Working Group/ Project Team Meeting
- Consolidated Working Group Otay River Watershed Management Plan Goals and Objectives (September 1, 2004 Revised December 1, 2004)
- Goals and Policy Excerpts to be presented to the Policy Committee

1. Call to Order

Introductions were made

November 3, 2004 Meeting Summary reviewed and approved by the Group.

2. Presentation: National Wildlife Refuge, Vicki Touchstone

Vicki Touchstone gave a powerpoint presentation on the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the only national network of public lands set aside for the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants. There are two refuges in the Otay River Watershed; South San Diego Bay and the San Diego National Wildlife Refuges.

The San Diego NWR was established in 1996 as a component of the MSCP. 52,000 acre acquisition boundary including vernal pools. Issues in the SDNWR are endangered species, recovery, MSCP monitoring, land acquisition and management of public activity. The Management Plan is a comprehensive conservation plan.

Restoration of the Otay River floodplain is significant in the Otay River Watershed Management Plan.

Website: www.sandiegorefuges.fws.gov

John Willett stated that there will be a clean up from 9 to noon this Friday (December 3).

Wayne Dickey had a question concerning Nestor Creek.

Vicki Touchstone responded that there would be restoration for the portion that is in the refuge.

3. Project Director Reports (DeStefano)

Joe DeStefano reported on the November 15th Executive Committee meeting that took place at the CAC. Representatives from the County, City of IB and Chula Vista and the Port attended the meeting.

Clean water for the SAMP was discussed as well as setting up a meeting with the Regional Board Executive John Robertus. A meeting has been set up for December 14th 2004.

The Executive Committee confirmed the Stakeholder-Working Group and approved the Goals and Objectives.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for August of 2005.

4. Consultant Report

Michelle Mattson announced that the consultant is behind on deliverables and they will be done at the end of December or beginning of January.

Marc Schulte from RBF presented on the PLOAD Water Quality Modeling, Point and Non-point Source of Pollution Report and the Draft Water Quality monitoring strategy.

Marc Schulte reported that there are 3 main work efforts;

- 1) Point/ non-point characterization report
- 2) PLOAD Modeling
- 3) Water Quality Monitoring strategy

Point/ non-point source characterization:

- 1) Identifies the types of stressors
- 2) Identifies the stressors on the Otay Watershed
- 3) Identifies control of point/ non-point sources

Point sources are permitted sources such as municipal activities, industrial and commercial activities and residential and urban areas. Non-point sources include agriculture and forestry.

The PLOAD Water Quality Model is a mathematical description of real world processes. It predicts the generation of pollutant loads from the watershed. The PLOAD is developed with the help of GIS and ultimately becomes a tool to evaluate scenarios.

Data needed for the model are watershed delineations, land use, precipitation, impervious cover, and expected pollutant loading.

The consultants have identified 28 sub basins within the Otay River Watershed. The Army Corps of Engineers have identified 212, which the consultants considered and came up with 28 sub basins based on functions and values.

Michelle Mattson stated that the consultants are not currently collecting data and that data collection will come during implementation.

John Willett pointed out that the last 2 years have been especially wet and if that data was being incorporated.

Marc Schulte responded that data is being collected, but not by the consultants.

Suzanne Michel stated that imperviousness depends on how sub basins are defined and asked how the 28 sub basins impact the measure of imperviousness.

Marc Schulte answered that generally models do sensitivity analysis.

Joe DeStefano added that the Army Corps of Engineers is doing a parallel study and the consultants are involved with the Army Corps of Engineers modeling. Discussion is taking place in order to solve differences between the ACOE and the consultants.

Rick Fox stated that there is not a lot of data. There is some on Jamul Creek and there are samples from this season. He stated that it takes time to get data, but it will be integrated and analyzed.

Tom Oberbauer stated that the County modeled rainfall of the last 6 months. This map incorporates a series of factors and accommodates topographic features.

A question was asked on how the characterization report and PLOAD model will be used.

Marc Schulte responded that they will help guide the decision making. Existing and future trends in pollutant loads will be assessed and assess the effectiveness of BMP strategies. They will also help prioritize watersheds.

Joe DeStefano asked if the consultants were considering the BLM TMDL land use model that looks at runoff. This model can be used as a comparative model.

Rick Fox stated that types of end of pipeline water uses should be looked at.

Marc Schulte stated that the consultants are getting a baseline of existing trends to identify hot spots and prioritize. This baseline can be used in water quality monitoring strategies.

Suzanne Michel asked if a map of who was monitoring where could be provided.

Marc Schulte responded that an overall assessment of the watershed was done.

Joe DeStefano stated that most monitoring doesn't have a concrete location. It can be recommended that monitoring groups pinpoint on GIS where they are monitoring.

Khosro Aminpour asked whether pollutants during dry weather had been considered.

Marc Schulte answered that both wet and dry weather flows had been considered.

Jim Peugh stated that regarding the objectives for water quality, stream flow, channelization and channel degradation, it is necessary to know what levels of development will allow streams to survive beforehand.

Michelle Mattson stated that the geomorphology study is being done for the SAMP and being incorporated into the Watershed Management Plan. The consultants are working on the Planning Principles document.

Joe DeStefano stated that the County is looking at the Planning Principles Document and commenting.

Suzanne Michel stated that there are gaining streams caused by increased impervious surface. It should be considered whether or not streams were historically dry or not.

Jim Peugh asked whether groundwater modeling was being done.

Marc Schulte answered that groundwater modeling is not taking place. There are reasonable assumptions made based on imperviousness.

Joe DeStefano stated that the plan doesn't have a function to collect all data. The plan takes existing data and moves forward. Recommendations for additional studies

become part of the plan and can be done in the future. This plan needs to know what we know now. The gap analysis is critical in the planning effort to point out where analysis is missing and it is important the plan is living documents that evolves to include the missing components.

Suzanne Michel had a question on credibility of indicator reports and stated that it is important to have peer review.

Michelle Mattson reviewed the Draft Watershed Management Plan Goals and Objectives. She stated that details were added and several objectives were broken into multiple ones.

5. Policy Committee Discussion

Joe DeStefano stated that the Policy Committee meeting is on December 13th and open to the public. The staff reports on the WMP and SAMP will be presented.

6. Next Project Team/Working Group meeting Wednesday January 5, 2005

7. Upcoming Events/Public Announcements

Meredith Speicher asked if there were any restoration projects that could use (Marsh Elder?) funds.

The Coastal Conservancy also has a grant.

Suzanne Michel stated that the WRP Work Plan Provides funding possibilities.

There is a December 8th meeting with Project Clean Water TAC for prop 50 funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.